More wet weather as Atlantic storm crosses UK

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Our forecasters are expecting a band of rain to push north across the UK through Thursday afternoon and Friday accompanied by strong and blustery winds.

The heaviest rain is expected through this evening and tonight with 20 to 40 mm of rain falling quite widely. However there is the potential for up to 40 to 60 mm of rain across upland parts of Wales and particularly Northern Ireland as the rain band pushes north, accompanied by gales as winds gust to 50 mph.

Frank Saunders, Chief Forecaster at the Met Office, said: "The unsettled theme we have seen so far this month is set to continue with more wet and windy weather to come, especially through tonight and tomorrow, although we are not expecting it to be as severe as the weather last weekend."

"We are working closely with colleagues in the Environment Agency and other agencies to ensure that we are all aware of the latest weather forecast. However people should keep up to date with the latest weather forecasts and warnings from the Met Office on our website for the latest information."

Through Friday the rain will linger across parts of northern England and southern Scotland whilst elsewhere there will be a fair amount of bright weather for the country, although with the risk of heavy showers at times. There is also the risk of further rain spreading into south east England later in the day.

Simon Sheldon-Wilson, Director of Traffic Management at the Highways Agency , said: "We advise drivers to plan ahead before setting out when the Met Office have forecast strong wind and heavy rainfall. The Met Office provides our control centres with detailed forecasts to help us identify potential risks to our network and keep traffic flowing during severe weather. Always check weather forecasts and road conditions and allow extra time if conditions are poor or delay the journey if conditions are really severe."

Katharine Evans, Flood Incident Manager from the Environment Agency said: "With heavy rain forecast by the Met Office we would urge people to remain vigilant and prepared for flooding, and check the Environment Agency website and Twitter feed for the latest updates and flood warnings. The Environment Agency has mobilised teams across the country to check on flood defences, clear any river blockages, and closely monitor river levels. These teams have been working around the clock to reduce the risk of flooding, and will be out in force again over the coming days."

Currently, as we head into the weekend, Saturday looks rather unsettled with most places seeing showers or longer spells of rain, bringing the potential for rather wet conditions as the Olympic Torch Relay journeys from Gateshead to Durham.

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council: "As a county we have the privilege of playing host to the Olympic Flame on three separate days this month. I feel sure residents will help us make our moment to shine one to remember forever and will fully embrace this unique opportunity whatever the weather."

Forecasts for the Olympic Torch Relay are available on our website as well as on mobile phones and on our iPhone and Android Apps meaning you are never far from a local, detailed weather forecast.

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